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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02871 01 OF 02 140931Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O R 140820Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1500
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2871

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, GR
SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS: POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING OF SECRETAIRES GENERAL AND PROMPTNESS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF EMBARGO REPEAL

SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION ON APRIL 13, TURKISH MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GREEKS HAD POSTPONED MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14 IN ANKARA BETWEEN HIM AND HIS GREEK COUNTERPART ON GROUNDS THAT ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY ANNOUNCEMENT BY US ADMINISTRATION OF ITS INTENT TO SEEK REPEAL OF MILITARY SALES EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY HAD CREATED NEED FOR DELAY. ELEKDAG SAID THAT DESPITE ASSURANCE BY KARAMANLIS TO ECEVIT AT MONTREUX THAT EMBARGO QUESTION DID NOT INTEREST GREEK GOVERNMENT, GREEKS HAVE NOW ACTED IN CONTRADICTION TO THEIR AGREEMENT TO HOLD THE MEETING AND ARE NOW ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. SECRETARY GENERAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CONGRESSIONAL DELAY WOULD INCREASE RISK THAT REPEAL MIGHT BE REJECTED AND ASKED WHETHER ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO SPEED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

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1. AT THE END OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL SUKRU ELEKDAG ON ANOTHER SUBJECT APRIL 13, ELEKDAG, CONSULTING NOTES, SAID THAT HE WISHED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE GREEK ATTITUDE TOWARD REMOVAL OF THE U.S. EMBARGO AND THE TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF ITS REPEAL.

2. BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE HEARINGS IN THE HOUSE

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID, THE TURKS MADE SOUNDINGS THAT INDICATED THAT LEGAL PROCESSES FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD BE COMPLETED WELL BEFORE THE END OF MAY. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL HAD INDICATED RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THAT CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS WOULD NOT BE FINISHED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE. THIS SITUATION CAUSES APPREHENSION IN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. THE MORE THE LEGAL PROCESS IS PROLONGED, THE GREATER RISK IS INVOLVED THAT OBSTACLES TO REPEAL WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

3. HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED IN THIS CONNECTION BY RECENT BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH GREECE. BOTH THE GREEK AND THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTERS HAD AGREED THAT THEIR TALKS IN MONTREUX HAD CREATED A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. IN MONTREUX, PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS TOLD PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THAT THE EMBARGO QUESTION DID NOT INTEREST THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE GREEKS WOULD DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE REPEAL. BUT NOW THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS POSTPONED THE MEETING OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH SECRETARIES GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED BY BOTH PRIME MINISTERS AT MONTREUX AND OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BY BOTH SIDES TO TAKE PLACE IN ANKARA ON APRIL 14. THE GREEKS HAVE CLAIMED AS REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE DOES NOT PERMIT THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME.

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4. AMBASSADOR ASKED ELEKDAG FOR CLARIFICATION. HAD THE GREEKS CITED "ATMOSPHERE" OR "TECHNICAL REASONS" FOR THE POSTPONEMENT? HE REPEATED THAT THE GREEKS HAD STATED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE U.S. ADMINSTRATION THAT IT WOULD SEEK REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO HAD CREATED THE NEED FOR DELAY.

5. THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS, NECDET TEZEL, ON BEING INFORMED OF THE GREEK DECISION TO POSTPONE THE MEETING OF THE TWO SECRETARIES GENERAL, HAD RESPONDED THAT DELAY WOULD IMPAIR THE RESULTS OF MONTREUX. HE WAS INFORMED THAT MR. KARAMANLIS HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT AN INNER CABINET MEETING WHICH HAD ARRIVED AT THIS DECISION. THE DECISION COULD NOT BE CHANGED.

6. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD SENT A MESSAGE APRIL 8 TO ATHENS, ELEKDAG CONTINUED, SAYING THAT IT WAS "SURPRISED AND TAKEN ABACK" BY THE DECISION. THE TURKS ADDED THAT THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE POSTPONEMENT. THEY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT BY THEMSELVES AFTER THE GREEK ANNOUNCEMENT AND BE FREE TO COMMENT.

7. ELEKDAG OBSERVED THAT THE GREEKS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN AN

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INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. EVEN
KARAMANLIS AND HIS MINISTERS HAVE STARTED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS CAMPAIGN, ACTIVITIES NOT IN HARMONY WITH THE
MONTREUX MEETING, SAID ELEKDAG.

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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8. ELEKDAG BELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ACHIEVED
A GOOD MOMENTUM TOWARD REPEALING THE EMBARGO. THIS MOMENTUM
SHOULD NOT BE WEAKENED. IF THE PROCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL
DELIBERATION WERE LENGTHENED, LINKAGE COULD DEVELOP AGAIN
BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE EMBARGO. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT,
THEREFORE, WONDERS IF THERE IS A WAY TO SPEED UP THE
CONGRESSIONAL DELIBERATIONS.

9. GENERAL HAIG, HE REPORTED, HAD TOLD DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER FEYZIOGLU A FEW DAYS AGO IN BRUSSELS THAT IF THE
ADMINISTRATION PUSHES REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO AND WORKS TO
PERSUADE CONGRESS TO ACT PROMPTLY, RESULTS COULD BE OBTAINED
BY THE END OF MAY. IN GENERAL HAIG'S MIND THERE ARE
POSSIBILITIES FOR SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS.

10. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE STILL DID NOT HAVE A FULL
PICUTRE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULING. HEARINGS IN THE HOUSE
WILL RESUME APRIL 14 AND 17, AND A VOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE
BEFORE MAY 15. ON THE SENATE SIDE WE HAD LESS INFORMATION.
AMBASSADOR UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SENATE WOULD NOT SCHEDULE
HEARINGS UNTIL AFTER THE VOTE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND
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HE DOBTED THERE WAS ANY WAY TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS UNTIL
THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY WAS OUT OF THE WAY. SENATOR JAVITS,
WHEN HE WAS IN ANKARA, HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD ACT TO GET THE
HEARINGS SET QUICKLY AFTER THE PANAMA CANAL VOTE, BUT AMBASSADOR
DID NOT THINK THEY HAD BEEN FIRMLY SCHEDULED YET. PERHAPS
HE WOULD HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE SCHEDULE AFTER MEETING
WITH NIMETZ IN LONDON NEXT WEEK.

11. AS LONG AS REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO WAS STILL A QUESTION,
AMBASSADOR TOLD ELEKDAG, WE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT MAY BE
DIFFICULT FOR TURKEY AND GREECE TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
AMBASSADOR WAS SURE THAT WASHINGTON WAS FULLY AWARE OF THIS
PROBLEM AND WOULD WEIGHT THIS FACTOR IN DETERMINING ITS
APPROACH. WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT HAVE SOME INFLUENCE
ON TIMING, THE FACT IS CONGRESS IS MASTER OF ITS OWN SCHEDULE.
AMBASSADOR ASSURED ELEKDAG THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD USE
ALL ITS RESOURCES AND INFLUENCE ON BEHALF OF ITS PROPOSAL
TO REPEAL EMBARGO.

12. ELEKDAG REITERATED THAT UNLESS THE EMBARGO IS REPEALED,
THE GREEK SIDE WILL NOT SIT DOWN TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TURKS.
THE EMBARGO WAS AN "ICON", A SYMBOL FOR THE GREEKS, THAT
"HAS TO BE SHATTERED". THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT STRENGTHENS
THE TURKISH APPRAISAL THAT UNLESS THE EMBARGO IS REPEALED,
THE GREEKS WILL NOT ENTER INTO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKS
WITH A VIEW TO HARMONIZING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES AND
REACHING A SOLUTION OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

13. IN CLOSING, THE SECRETARY GENERAL ASKED WHETHER IT
WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE UP THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO SEPARATELY
FROM THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR ASSUMED THE
ADMINISTRATION HAD DEVOTED MUCH THOUGHT TO ITS TACTICS AND
DECIDED ON ITS PRESENT COURSE. THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM HAS A
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CLEAR PRIORITY NOW IN BOTH HOUSES.

14. AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT HE
WOULD REPORT GOT CONCERNS TO WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS THE
INFORMATION THAT THE GREEKS SPECIFICALLY RELATED POSTPONEMENT
OF THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL TO THE ISSUE OF
REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO.
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# Message Attributes

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